

REMARKS

The Examiner's action dated October 18, 2005, has been received, and its contents carefully noted.

In response to the formal rejection presented in section 1 of the Action, the claims have been amended by deletion of those limitations considered to not be supported by the written description.

All occurrences of "identical modem" have been replaced by a recitation of an "interchangeable modem". The present claims, with the exception of claim 85, are directed to a module for coupling a telephone device to a channel carried over a bus topology wiring in a building, the module including a local area network modem. The present specification discloses such a topology, which is illustrated in the drawings, for example in Figures 8, 10 and 12.

In bus topology wiring, devices are all connected to a common line so that any one connected device can communicate with any other connected device. The circuit shown in Figure 8 is described on pages 14 and 15 of the present specification. At page 14, lines 17-19, it is disclosed that a telephone line modem, such as telephone line modem 23 shown in Figure 7 of the application drawing, is within each of the outlets 88a-d to allow networking between and among the outlets. This portion of the specification clearly indicates

that the same modem is provided in each of the outlets. It follows, inherently, that each of these modems would be interchangeable from one outlet to another. The significance of the use of a modem that can communicate with an interchangeable modem, as concerns the distinctions between the invention and the prior art, will be discussed below in connection with the prior art rejection.

The claims have been amended to delete reference to a service plug or a service jack. Nevertheless, for the record, it must be pointed out that the specification does disclose that it is common practice to make a connection between a jack and a plug. (Specification, page 2, lines 13-23).

In view of the above explanations, and the amendments that have been made to the claims, it is requested that this ground of rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In response to the objection to the drawings, it is again noted that the claims have been amended to delete reference to "identical modem" as well as to a plug and a jack. A plurality of modems are already illustrated in the application drawing in that a modem is illustrated in Figure 7 and each of the modules 88 shown in Figure 8 are described as containing such a modem.

Regarding the means for detachably electrically and mechanically coupling said module to an outlet, claim 88 has been amended to clarify that the means are provided for coupling a module to an opening in a wall. Such means are clearly illustrated in Figure 13 of the application drawing. In that figure, connection 144 is employed for electrically connecting a module 132, 134 to a telephone line and flanges 146 are provided for mechanically coupling the module to the outlet opening.

It is therefore requested that the objection to the drawing be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In response to the claim rejection under 35 U.S.C §112, second paragraph, claim 21 has been amended, at line 8, to refer to "said local area network modem". In claim 21, only one local area network is previously recited.

It is accordingly requested that this ground of rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

The prior art rejection presented in section 5 of the Action is respectfully traversed.

Claim 30 defines a module that includes at least one exchange line interface connectable to an analog telephone service connection (such as lines 86a and 86b in Figure 8) for converting an analog telephone service signal to a digitized service signal.

In this art, there is a clear distinction between an exchange line interface and a subscriber line interface. A subscriber line interface, an example of which is element 72 shown in Figure 7 of the present application, and element 600 shown in Figure 6 of the Brown reference, is configured and connectable to an analog telephone to covert a digital signal to an analog telephone signal. On the other hand, an exchange line interface such as each element 81 shown in Figure 8 of the application drawing, is constructed and configured to connect to a central exchange, rather to an analog telephone set, and converts analog telephone signals to digital signals.

Brown does not disclose a module containing an exchange line interface. Specifically, although the derived voice modem 108 of Brown does contain a subscriber line interface 600, shown in Figure 6, modem 108 does not contain an exchange line interface.

As shown in Figures 2 and 3 of the reference, and described at column 8, lines 58-67, the exchange/CO side connection is made via digital trunk 105 which carries digitized telephone channels (specification, column 5, lines 41-43 and column 7, lines 5-7).

Thus, claim 30 clearly distinguishes over this reference by its recitations a module having an exchange line interface connectable to the analog telephone service

connection to convert at least one analog telephone service signal to a digitized service signal, together with a modem connected to the exchange line interface to conduct the digitized service signal over the wiring.

It is noted that claims 21-29, 32-36, 59, 62-67, 85 and 87-89 have not been rejected on the basis of the prior art and it is therefore assumed that, since the present amendments overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C §112, first and second paragraphs, these claims are now in allowable form.

However, for the sake of completeness, it will be pointed out that claim 21 is directed to a module for coupling a telephone device to a voice channel carried over bus topology wiring in a building and that the module includes a local area network modem.

The prior art of record, such as the patent to Brown, does not disclose a module that is to be connected to a channel carried over bus topology wiring in a building. Figure 6 of Brown shows a single derived voice modem 108 having two SLICs 600, each connected in a point-to-point manner between a telephone and a central office (CO). There is no disclosure that this structure is part of a local area network and no reason to believe that modem 108 is a local area network modem.

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This reference discloses the connection of modem 108 to a subscriber loop in a WAN network. Modem 108 communicates with a derived voice platform 101 in a central office (Figure 1), physically located in a building different from that containing the subscriber location (specification, column 1, lines 66 to column 2, line 24). Such a WAN modem is required to deal with different transmission requirements, as described by Brown at column 1, lines 38-45 and column 4, lines 56-59.

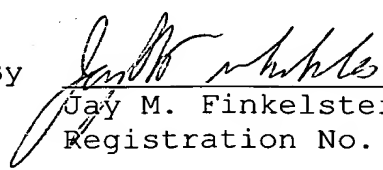
In view of the foregoing, it is requested that all the objections and rejections of record be reconsidered and withdrawn, that the pending claims be allowed and that the application be found in allowable condition.

If the above amendment should not now place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to call undersigned counsel to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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